

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 424 976 B1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(45) Date of publication and mention
of the grant of the patent:
02.06.1999 Bulletin 1999/22

(51) Int Cl.⁶: **G06K 7/10, G06K 7/016**

(21) Application number: **90120706.8**

(22) Date of filing: **29.10.1990**

(54) **Data reading device and control system having data reading device**

Daten-Lesevorrichtung und Steuersystem mit Daten-Lesevorrichtung

Lecteur de données et système de commande à lecteur de données

(84) Designated Contracting States:
DE FR GB

(30) Priority: **27.10.1989 JP 278440/89**
28.12.1989 JP 344812/89

(43) Date of publication of application:
02.05.1991 Bulletin 1991/18

(73) Proprietor: **CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA**
Tokyo (JP)

(72) Inventor: **Kazumi, Jiro,**
c/o Canon K. K. Tamagawa-Jigyosho
Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa-ken (JP)

(74) Representative:
Pellmann, Hans-Bernd, Dipl.-Ing. et al
Patentanwaltsbüro
Tiedtke-Bühling-Kinne & Partner
Bavariaring 4
80336 München (DE)

(56) References cited:
EP-A- 0 098 956 **GB-A- 2 183 070**
GB-A- 2 185 840 **US-A- 4 521 678**
US-A- 4 876 571

• **FUNKSCHAU, vol. 59, no. 22, 23rd October 1987,**
pages 28,30-32, Munich, DE; "Information Strich
für Strich"

EP 0 424 976 B1

Note: Within nine months from the publication of the mention of the grant of the European patent, any person may give notice to the European Patent Office of opposition to the European patent granted. Notice of opposition shall be filed in a written reasoned statement. It shall not be deemed to have been filed until the opposition fee has been paid. (Art. 99(1) European Patent Convention).

Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to a data reading device for reading data such as a bar code, and a control system for controlling an operation on the basis of data read by the data reading device.

Related Background Art

[0002] In a conventional device of this type, a first input means is operated to set a read state, and a second input means is operated to transfer data to another device.

[0003] Conventionally, the first input means adopts a slide switch or a push switch. in a device of this type, a battery is used as a power supply.

[0004] However, in some devices using a slide switch, when the switch is turned on, a read LED is kept ON, and a battery is used up soon. On the other hand, in other devices using a slide switch and a timer to turn off the power supply after the lapse of a predetermined period of time, whether or not a read enable state is set cannot be determined by looking at the switch. Once the power supply is turned off by the timer, the slide switch must be turned off once, and must be turned on again.

[0005] In a device using a push button, when the device is stored in a case or a pocket, the push button is kept depressed, and a battery is undesirably used up.

[0006] As a conventional bar code data reading device, for example, a pen-like device is known. In this device, a first input means is operated to set a read state, and a second input means is operated to transfer data to another device.

[0007] Since each prior art requires the first and second input means, it is difficult to realize a more compact device. Since it is difficult to improve operability of the two input means, operability of either means must be sacrificed.

[0008] In the article "Information Strich für Strich" disclosed on pages 28 and 30-32 in FUNKSCHAU, Vol. 59, No. 22, October 23, 1987, Munich, DE, a data reading device according to the preamble of claim 1 is described. A power-on-switch directly switches a supply voltage to the reading means in order to set a data reading mode. Thus, the reading state directly depends on the state of the switch.

[0009] Furthermore, the GB-A-2 185 840 discloses a load key switch for setting a remote controller comprising a bar code reader into a reading state. However, only a manual switch-back to the non-reading state is described therein.

[0010] Additionally, the US-A-4 521 678 describes a data reading device, wherein the reading operation is determined by the actual state of a switch and is auto-

matically switched off after a predetermined period of time.

[0011] Finally, the US-A-4 876 571 discloses data reading device, wherein a reading state ends when no input signal change is detected for a predetermined time.

[0012] It is an object of the present invention to provide a data reading device having an improved operability.

[0013] This object is achieved by a data reading device as claimed claim 1.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS:

[0014]

Fig. 1 is a block diagram of a circuit of the first embodiment;

Fig. 2 shows an example of a bar code;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a data reading device and a data processing device of the first embodiment;

Fig. 4 is a flow chart;

Figs. 5A and 5B are flow charts;

Fig. 6 is a flow chart showing a bar code reading operation according to the second embodiment of the present invention; and

Figs. 7A and 7B are flow charts showing an operation of the overall bar code data reading device.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS:

[0015] Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing a control system according to the first embodiment of the present invention. The control system shown in Fig. 1 includes a data reading device 19, and a data processing device 20. The data reading device 19 has a one-chip micro-computer (to be referred to as an MCU hereinafter) 1 for controlling a bar code data reading unit. The MCU 1 includes a CPU, a ROM, a RAM, I/O terminals, a serial communication interface (to be abbreviated to as an SCI hereinafter), a timer, and the like. Of the I/O terminals of the MCU 1, an input terminal P11 is connected to the output of a code detection circuit 2. code is completed. If it is determined in step 150 that the timer overflows, an error is determined, and the processing is ended as an error. If it is determined in step 151 that the timer overflows, it is checked in step 152 based on the number of bars whether or not reading is normally ended. In steps 153 and 154, an end bar is checked, and if NG is determined, an error is determined and the processing is ended at C.

[0016] If the above-mentioned checking operations are OK, a portion corresponding to data of the end bar is excluded in steps 155 and 156, thus obtaining a binary expression of data represented by the bar code. Thus, this binary data is converted according to Table 1 to ob-

tain data of the bar code. At this time, if no corresponding data is found from the table, an error is determined, and the processing is ended.

[0017] In the above arrangement, when the power supply of the bar code reading device is turned on, electric charges are accumulated in the capacitor 13 through the resistor 12. Therefore, the terminal RESET of the MCU 1 is set at L level for a predetermined period of time. At this time, the MCU 1 clears a transmission data area of the RAM (e.g., writes FF_H), as shown in step 250 in the flow chart of Fig. 5B. Thereafter, the MCU 1 is set in the stop state in step 251.

[0018] When the switch 8 is turned on, an interrupt operation is started, and the flow chart shown in Fig. 5B is executed. When the switch 8 is depressed first, since there is no data, data transmission is not performed according to the judgment result in step 201, and the LED 4 is turned on to read a bar code. Upon completion of reading (step 204a), the read content (01 for the bar code 30) is written in the transmission data area of the RAM by a BCD code (step 205). Thereafter, it is checked if the input terminal P12 is at H level (step 206). If it is determined in step 206 that the terminal P12 is at H level, since the battery voltage is sufficient, the LED 4 is turned off (step 207), and a 4-kHz output is supplied to the output terminal P22 for a predetermined period of time (e.g., 50 msec) to drive the buzzer 11 (step 209). If it is determined that the input terminal P12 is at L level, the LED 4 is turned off (step 208), and after a 4-kHz output is supplied to the output terminal P22 for a predetermined period of time (e.g., 50 msec), the system halts for a while (e.g., 200 msec). Thereafter, a 4-kHz output is output again for a predetermined period of time (e.g., 50 msec) to caution a battery shortage (step 210).

[0019] When the switch is turned on again, since 01H is written in the transmission data area of the RAM, a transmission operation is performed. The transmission operation is performed in such a manner that this data is written in the SCI (serial communication interface)

[0020] In steps 323 and 324, a time of a bar is read, and if the read time is longer than T₀, "1" is determined, the read data is doubled, and 1 is added to the doubled data (step 327); otherwise, the read data is simply doubled (step 325). In steps 328 and 329, a time of a space is read, and if the read time is longer than T₀, "1" is determined, and the same operations are performed.

[0021] Every time a set of a bar and a space are read, n is incremented, and reading of the bar and space is repeated.

[0022] It is detected in steps 350 and 351 whether or not a timer overflows. If it is determined that the timer overflows, it is determined that reading of a bar code is completed. If it is determined in step 350 that the timer overflows, an error is determined, and the processing is restarted from ① i.e., step 300. If it is determined in step 351 that the timer overflows, it is checked in step 352 based on the number of bars whether or not reading is normally ended. In steps 353 and 354, an end bar is

checked, and if NG is determined (reading is not normally ended), an error is determined and the operation is restarted from ①.

[0023] If the above-mentioned checking operations are OK, a portion corresponding to data of the end bar is excluded in steps 355 and 356, thus obtaining a binary expression of data represented by the bar code. Thus, this binary data is converted in step 357, thereby obtaining data of the bar code. At this time, if no corresponding data is found from a table, an error is determined (step 358), and the operation is restarted from ① to perform reading again.

[0024] The operation of the system of the second embodiment will be described below with reference to the flow chart shown in Figs. 7A and 7B.

[0025] In the above arrangement, when the power supply of the bar code reading device 19 is turned on, electric charges are accumulated in the capacitor 13 through the resistor 12. Therefore, the input terminal RESET of the MCU 1 is set at L level for a predetermined period of time. At this time, the MCU 1 clears a transmission data area of the RAM (e.g., writes FF_H), as shown in step 450 in the flow chart of Fig. 7B. Thereafter, the MCU 1 is set in the stop state in step 451.

[0026] When the switch 8 is depressed, an interrupt operation is started, and an operation is executed from step 401 in Fig. 7A.

[0027] When the switch 8 is turned on first, since there is no data, data transmission is not performed according to the judgment result in step 401, and the LED 4 is turned on in step 403 to perform a bar code reading operation described with reference to Fig. 6 (step 404). Upon completion of reading, the read content ("01" when the bar code 30 is read) is written. Another input terminal P12 is connected to the output of a voltage detection circuit 10. Of the I/O terminals of the MCU 1, an output terminal P23 is connected to the base of a transistor 5. Another output terminal P22 is connected to a piezoelectric buzzer 11. An output terminal P21 of the SCI of the MCU 1 is connected to the base of a transistor 6.

[0028] The collector of the transistor 5 is connected to an LED 4. A silicon photodiode (to be abbreviated to as an SPD hereinafter) 3 detects light reflected by a code (bar code) 30 which consists of optically readable black bars and white spaces, and is irradiated with light emitted from the LED 4. The detection circuit 2 detects an output from the SPD 3, and if the output represents a space of the bar code 30, the circuit 2 outputs low (L) level; if it represents a bar, the circuit 2 outputs high (H) level.

[0029] The collector of the transistor 6 is connected to an infrared light-emitting diode (to be abbreviated to as an IRED hereinafter) 7.

[0030] The reading device 19 also includes a battery 9 serving as a power supply of the reading device, and a capacitor 14. The input of the voltage detection circuit 10 is connected to the battery 9, and when the input is higher than a given voltage level, the circuit outputs H

level; otherwise, it outputs L level. The given voltage level is set to be slightly higher than a minimum operation voltage of the MCU 1.

[0031] The MCU 1 is set in a stop state in response to a command, i.e., stops all the operations and is set in a state with a small current consumption. When an input terminal RESET or IRQ goes to L level, the stop state is canceled, and the MCU 1 performs operations as a microcomputer.

[0032] The input terminal RESET is connected to a resistor 12 and a capacitor 13, which are connected to the power supply and a terminal GND.

[0033] The input terminal IRQ serves as an interrupt terminal, and when its input goes to L level, an interrupt operation is started. The terminal IRQ is connected to a push switch 8.

[0034] An SPD 23 and a detection circuit 21 for detecting light emitted from the IRED 7 are connected to a data processing circuit 22. The data processing circuit 22 performs necessary control on the basis of data read from the bar code.

[0035] A format of a bar code will be described below.

[0036] The bar code consists of thin lines (to be referred to as narrow bars hereinafter), thick lines (to be referred to as wide bars hereinafter), narrow intervals between adjacent bars (to be referred to as narrow spaces hereinafter), and wide bar intervals (to be referred to as wide spaces hereinafter). Each narrow bar and wide space correspond to "1", and each wide bar and wide space correspond to "0". A ratio of the widths of a narrow space and a narrow bar is 1 : 1, and a ratio of the widths of a narrow bar and a wide bar is 1 : 3.

[0037] The bar code always starts from a combination of two narrow bars and a narrow space (to be referred to as a start bar hereinafter), as shown in Fig. 2, and ends by a narrow space sandwiched between a wide bar and a narrow bar (to be referred to as an end bar hereinafter). Data is written between the start and end bars in units of five bars and five corresponding spaces, and each unit express a numeral of one digit. Table 1 below shows the orders of "0"s and "1"s and numbers expressed thereby. For example, in a code 30 shown in Fig. 2, after the start bar, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0 and 0, 1, 0, 0, 1 are indicated by bars (where narrow bar = 0 and wide bar = 1), and 1, 0, 0, 0, 1 and 0, 1, 0, 0, 1 are indicated by spaces. Therefore, from Table 1, the code 30 shown in Fig. 2 is a bar code representing 01 (decimal notation), and similarly, a code 30' in Fig. 2 is a bar code representing 04 (decimal notation).

[0038] A bar code reading operation will be described below with reference to the flow chart shown in Fig. 4. As described in the arrangement of this embodiment, when the terminal P11 is at H level, a bar of the bar code is detected; when it is at L level, a space of the bar code is detected.

[0039] The control waits in step 100 until the first bar is detected. In steps 101 to 103, a time of the first narrow bar is measured. In steps 104 to 106, a time of a narrow

space is measured, and in steps 107 to 109, a time of the next narrow bar is measured. A maximum value of these times is multiplied with 1.5, and the product is used as a time T0 used for narrow/wide judgment. Upon completion of measurement of the time T0 using the start bar, a data register is cleared in step 121 to read data. In steps 123 and 124, a time of a bar is read, and if the read time is longer than T0, "1" is determined, the read data is doubled, and 1 is added to the doubled data. In other cases, the read data is only doubled. In steps 128 and 129, a time of a space is read, and if the read time is longer than T0, "1" is determined, and the same operations are performed.

[0040] Every time a set of a bar and a space are read, n is incremented, and reading of the bar and space is repeated. It is detected in steps 150 and 151 whether or not a timer overflows. If it is determined that the timer overflows, it is determined that reading of a bar in the MCU 1 to cause it to perform the transmission operation. In response to the output from the SCI, the IRED 7 is turned on, and this optical output is detected by the SPD 23, thereby detecting the output from the SCI. With this signal, the data processing circuit 22 performs control according to the bar code 30.

[0041] If it is determined that no bar code input is detected while the LED is turned on (step 212), the number of seconds of the timer is checked (step 213). When the switch 8 is not depressed, if the timer has measured 10 seconds, the LED 4 is turned off to set a stop state (steps 214 and 215); when the switch 8 is depressed, the LED 4 is turned off after the timer has measured one minute or more (steps 214 and 216). During this period, however, if a bar code input is detected, a data read state is set (branching to step 204).

[0042] As described above, according to the data reading device of the first embodiment, every time the push switch is depressed once, the reading operation is started, and a first timer for ending the reading operation after the lapse of a predetermined period of time if the switch is not depressed, and a second timer for ending the reading operation after the lapse of a time longer than that of the first timer even if the switch is depressed are arranged, thus improving operability, and preventing wasteful consumption of a battery.

[0043] The second embodiment will be described below with reference to Figs. 6 and 7.

[0044] A reading operation of the bar code 30 will be described below with reference to the flow chart shown in Fig. 6. Note that this operation is started in response to a first ON event of the switch 8, as will be described later.

[0045] As described above, if an output from the code detection circuit 2: i.e., an input to the input terminal P11 of the MCU 1 is at H level, a bar of the bar code 30 is detected; if it is at L level, a space of the bar code is detected.

[0046] Six registers T0, T1, T2, n , D1, and D2 are prepared in the RAM in the MCU 1.

[0047] The control waits in step 300 until the first bar is detected. In steps 301 to 303, a time of the first narrow bar is measured. In steps 304 to 306, a time of a narrow space is measured, and in steps 307 to 309, a time of the next narrow bar is measured. A maximum value of these times is multiplied with 1.5 (step 310), and the product is used as a time T0 used for narrow/wide judgment.

[0048] Upon completion of measurement of the time T0 using the start bar, a data register is cleared in step 321 to start data reading.

[0049] In steps 323 and 324, a time of a bar is read, and if the read time is longer than T0, "1" is determined, the read data is doubled, and 1 is added to the doubled data (step 327); otherwise, the read data is simply doubled (step 325). In steps 328 and 329, a time of a space is read, and if the read time is longer than T0, "1" is determined, and the same operations are performed.

[0050] Every time a set of a bar and a space are read, n is incremented, and reading of the bar and space is repeated.

[0051] It is detected in steps 350 and 351 whether or not a timer overflows. If it is determined that the timer overflows, it is determined that reading of a bar code is completed. If it is determined in step 350 that the timer overflows, an error is determined, and the processing is restarted from A i.e., step 300. If it is determined in step 351 that the timer overflows, it is checked in step 352 based on the number of bars whether or not reading is normally ended. In steps 353 and 354, an end bar is checked, and if NG is determined (reading is not normally ended), an error is determined and the operation is restarted from A.

[0052] If the above-mentioned checking operations are OK, a portion corresponding to data of the end bar is excluded in steps 355 and 356, thus obtaining a binary expression of data represented by the bar code. Thus, this binary data is converted in step 357, thereby obtaining data of the bar code. At this time, if no corresponding data is found from a table, an error is determined (step 358), and the operation is restarted from A to perform reading again.

[0053] The operation of the system of the second embodiment will be described below with reference to the flow chart shown in Figs. 7A and 7B.

[0054] In the above arrangement, when the power supply of the bar code reading device 19 is turned on, electric charges are accumulated in the capacitor 13 through the resistor 12. Therefore, the input terminal RESET of the MCU 1 is set at L level for a predetermined period of time. At this time, the MCU 1 clears a transmission data area of the RAM (e.g., writes FF_H), as shown in step 450 in the flow chart of Fig. 7B. Thereafter, the MCU 1 is set in the step state in step 451.

[0055] When the switch 8 is depressed, an interrupt operation is started, and an operation is executed from step 401 in Fig. 7A.

[0056] When the switch 8 is turned on first, since there

is no data, data transmission is not performed according to the judgment result in step 401, and the LED 4 is turned on in step 403 to perform a bar code reading operation described with reference to Fig. 6 (step 404). Upon completion of reading, the read content ("01" when the bar code 30 is read) is written in the transmission data area of the RAM by a BCD code (step 405). Thereafter, it is checked in step 406 if the input terminal P12 is at H level. If the terminal P12 is at H level, since the voltage of the battery 9 is sufficient, after the LED 4 is turned off, a 4-kHz output is supplied to the output terminal P22 for a predetermined period of time (e.g., 50 msec) to drive the piezoelectric buzzer 11. On the other hand, if the input terminal P12 is at L level, the LED 4 is turned off, and after a 4-kHz output is supplied to the output terminal P22 for 50 msec, the system halts for 200 msec. Thereafter, a 4-kHz output is output again for 50 msec to caution a battery shortage.

[0057] When the switch 8 is turned on again, since "01" (decimal notation) is written in the transmission area (SCI in the MCU 1) on the RAM in turn, the transmission operation is started in step 402.

[0058] In response to the output from the SCI, the IRED 7 is turned on, and this light signal is detected by the SPD 23, so that a signal having the same waveform as the output from the SCI is input to the data processing circuit 22 through the detection circuit 21. The circuit 22 performs control according to the content of the bar code 30 on the basis of this signal.

[0059] Upon completion of the transmission operation, operations in step 403 and subsequent steps are started. In this case, as shown in Fig. 3, since the device 19 is directed toward the data processing device 20 side, no bar code reading operation in step 404 is performed. When the bar code reading operation is performed again, the device 19 is directed toward the bar code 30 and the switch 8 is turned on, thus starting the reading operation in the above-mentioned sequence.

[0060] According to this embodiment, the transmission operation is performed first, and then, the reading operation is performed by one switch 8. Therefore, the device can be rendered compact. Since the switch 8 can be arranged at a position where the operability of the device is the best, the operability of the device can be improved, and cost can also be reduced.

[0061] Since time-serial control need only be performed according to a signal from one switch 8, a control flow chart can be simplified, and a program can be created to have a smaller number of steps than that when a plurality of input means are arranged.

[0062] Since a battery check operation is performed in a series of operations, neither a special indication for the battery check operation (since it also serves as a data transmission or reading end indication), nor an operation member are required. Therefore, the device can be rendered compact, and cost can be reduced.

[0063] Furthermore, since the LED 4 for reading a bar code is used as a real load, a precise battery check op-

eration can be assured.

[0064] In the above embodiment, when a voltage of the battery 9 is insufficient, a caution tone is generated. Alternatively, an LED may be used, and may be turned on when the battery voltage is "sufficient" and may flash when it is "insufficient". Of course, any other indication means may be used. A battery check indication is made after the reading operation is completed, but may be performed when the transmission operation is started or ended.

[0065] The reading operation of the bar code 30 is performed by manually scanning the pen-like bar code data reading device 19, as shown in Fig. 3. As a matter of course, other reading methods by means of mechanical or optical scan may be employed.

[0066] Data transmission is attained by optical communications. However, a device which transmits data by electrically connecting terminals can perform a reading operation and a data transmission operation by one switch.

[0067] As described above, according to the second embodiment, one switch means, and a control means for causing a transfer means to perform a data transfer operation in response to an operation of the switch means, and then causing a reading means to perform a data reading operation are arranged. Thus, when the switch means, which is arranged at a position where it is easy to operate since only one switch means is arranged, is operated, a data transmission operation and a data reading operation are time-serially performed, so that a compact bar code reading device with good operability can be provided.

Table 1.

Character	Weight				Parity P
	1	2	4	7	
0	0	0	1	1	0
1	1	0	0	0	1
2	0	1	0	0	1
3	1	1	0	0	0
4	0	0	1	0	1
5	1	0	1	0	0
6	0	1	1	0	0
7	0	0	0	1	1
8	1	0	0	1	0
9	0	1	0	1	0

[0068] A data reading apparatus has a data reading device, which is set in a data read state upon operation of an operation switch, provided with a first timer for measuring a time in which the operation switch is not operated, and a second timer for measuring a time in which no data input is detected while the operation switch is operated, wherein the data reading state is canceled according to an output from the first or second

timer.

Claims

1. A data reading device comprising:

- (a) data reading means (3-5) for reading data;
- (b) an operation switch (8) for switching on said data reading means (3-5) to thereby establish a data reading state; and
- (c) control means (1) arranged for switching off said data reading means (3-5) to thereby establish a non-reading state when no data is input to said data reading means (3-5) for a predetermined period of time although said operation switch (8) is operated,

characterized in that

- (d) said control means (1) is adapted to switch on said data reading means (3-5) into the data reading state upon operation of said operation switch (8), to maintain said data reading state while an actual data reading action is being performed even if said operation switch (8) is no longer operated, and to switch off said data reading means (3-5) from said data reading state to said non-reading state upon judging completion of said data reading operation according to read data; and that
- (e) a first timer is provided for measuring a time period in which said data reading state is continued even if said operation switch (8) is no longer operated, and a second timer for measuring a time period in which no data is input to said data reading means (3-5) while said operation switch (8) is operated, wherein said control means (1) is adapted to switch off said data reading means (3-5) after the lapse of a predetermined period of time has been measured by said first timer or after the lapse of a time period longer than the predetermined period of time has been measured by said second timer.

2. A device according to claim 1,

characterized in that

said data read by said data reading means (3-5) is stored in a storage means.

3. A device according to claim 2,

characterized by

a transfer means (7) for transferring said data stored in said storage means to a data processing device with which said reading device communicates and which is controlled on the basis of said data.

4. A device according to any one claims 1 to 3,
characterized in that
said operation switch (8) is operated by depressing
a switch member and is no longer operated when
said switch member is released. 5
5. A device according to any one of claims 1 to 4,
characterized in that
said data is a bar code (30, 30'). 10
6. A device according to any one of claims 1 to 5,
characterized in that
said data reading means (3-5) projects light to said
data, and reads a content of said data from light re-
flected by said data. 15
7. A device according to claim 6,
characterized in that
said data reading means (3-5) continues projection
of said light in said data reading state, and stops
projection of said light to terminate said data read-
ing state. 20
8. A device according to claim 1, wherein said data is
stored in said storage means by a BCD code. 25
9. A device according to claim any one of claims 3 to 8,
characterized in that
said transfer means includes a light-emitting ele-
ment (7) and is adapted to transfer said data to said
data processing device by light projected from said
light-emitting element (7). 30
10. A device according to claim 9,
characterized in that
a light projection position of said data reading
means (3-5) and a light projection of said light emit-
ting element (7) are set at different positions. 35
11. A system comprising a data reading device accord-
ing to any one of claims 3 to 8 and comprising said
data processing device, wherein said data process-
ing device includes input means (21, 23) for input-
ting said data transferred by said transfer means (7)
of said data reading device, and a data processing
means (22) controlled on the basis of said data input
at said input means (21, 23). 40 45
12. A system according to claim 11, wherein said trans-
fer means includes a light-emitting element (7) and
is adapted to transfer said data by light projected
from said light emitting element (7), and said input
means (21, 23) includes a light-receiving element
(23) for receiving said light projected by said light
emitting element (7) to thereby input said data. 50 55

Patentansprüche

1. Datenlesevorrichtung mit:

- (a) einer Datenleseeinrichtung (3-5) zum Lesen
von Daten;
- (b) einem Bedienungsschalter (8) zum Ein-
schalten der Datenleseeinrichtung (3-5), um
dadurch einen Datenlesezustand herzustellen;
und
- (c) einer Steuereinrichtung (1), die zum Ab-
schalten der Datenleseeinrichtung (3-5) ange-
ordnet ist, um dadurch einen Nicht-Lese-Zu-
stand herzustellen, wenn während einer vorbe-
stimmten Zeitdauer keine Daten in die Daten-
leseeinrichtung (3-5) eingegeben werden, ob-
wohl der Bedienungsschalter (8) betätigt ist,

dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß

- (d) die Steuereinrichtung (1) ausgestaltet ist
zum Einschalten der Datenleseeinrichtung
(3-5) in den Datenlesezustand beim Betätigen
des Bedienungsschalters (8), um den Datenle-
sezustand während der Durchführung eines
aktuellen Datenlesevorgangs beizubehalten,
selbst wenn der Bedienungsschalter (8) nicht
länger betätigt wird, und zum Abschalten der
Datenleseeinrichtung (3-5) aus dem Datenle-
sezustand in den Nicht-Lese-Zustand beim Be-
urteilen einer Beendigung der Datenleseopera-
tion gemäß den gelesenen Daten; und daß
- (e) ein erster Zeitgeber vorgesehen ist zum
Messen einer Zeitdauer, während der der Da-
tenlesezustand fortgesetzt ist, selbst wenn der
Bedienungsschalter (8) nicht länger betätigt ist,
und ein zweiter Zeitgeber zum Messen einer
Zeitdauer, während der keine Daten in die Da-
tenleseeinrichtung (3-5) eingegeben werden,
während der Bedienungsschalter (8) betätigt
ist, wobei die Steuereinrichtung (1) ausgestal-
tet ist zum Abschalten der Datenleseeinrich-
tung (3-5), nachdem der Ablauf einer vorbe-
stimmten Zeitdauer durch den ersten Zeitgeber
gemessen wurde oder nachdem der Ablauf ei-
ner gegenüber der vorbestimmten Zeitdauer
längeren Zeitdauer durch den zweiten Zeitge-
ber gemessen wurde.

2. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1,
dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß
die durch die Datenleseeinrichtung (3-5) gelesenen
Daten in einer Speichereinrichtung gespeichert
sind.

3. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 2,
gekennzeichnet durch
eine Übertragungseinrichtung (7) zum Übertragen

der in der Speichereinrichtung gespeicherten Daten zu einer Datenverarbeitungsvorrichtung, mit der die Leseeinrichtung kommuniziert und die auf Grundlage der Daten gesteuert wird.

4. Vorrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß** der Bedienungsschalter (8) durch Drücken eines Schaltelements betätigt wird und beim Freigeben des Schaltelements nicht länger betätigt ist.
5. Vorrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß** die Daten ein Strichcode (30, 30') sind.
6. Vorrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 5, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß** die Datenleseeinrichtung (3-5) Licht auf die Daten projiziert, und einen Inhalt der Daten anhand des durch die Daten reflektierten Lichts einliest.
7. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 6, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß** die Datenleseeinrichtung (3-5) die Projektion des Lichts in dem Datenlesezustand fortführt, und die Projektion des Lichts stoppt, um den Datenlesezustand zu beenden.
8. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Daten mittels eines BCD-Codes in der Speichereinrichtung gespeichert sind.
9. Vorrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 3 bis 8, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß** die Übertragungseinrichtung ein lichtemittierendes Element (7) enthält und ausgestaltet ist zum Übertragen der Daten zu der Datenverarbeitungsvorrichtung mittels von dem lichtemittierenden Element (7) projiziertem Licht.
10. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 9, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß** eine Lichtprojektionsposition der Datenleseeinrichtung (3-5) und eine Lichtprojektion des lichtemittierenden Elements (7) auf verschiedene Positionen eingestellt sind.
11. System mit einer Datenlesevorrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 3 bis 8 und mit der Datenverarbeitungsvorrichtung, wobei die Datenverarbeitungsvorrichtung eine Eingabeeinrichtung (21, 23) zum Eingeben der durch die Übertragungseinrichtung (7) der Datenlesevorrichtung übertragenen Daten und eine auf Grundlage der an der Eingabeeinrichtung (21, 23) eingegebenen Daten gesteuerte Datenverarbeitungseinrichtung (22) enthält.
12. System nach Anspruch 11, wobei die Übertra-

gungseinrichtung ein lichtemittierendes Element (7) enthält und ausgestaltet ist zum Übertragen der Daten mittels von dem lichtemittierenden Element (7) projiziertem Licht, und die Eingabeeinrichtung (21, 23) ein lichtempfangendes Element (23) enthält zum Empfangen des durch das lichtemittierende Element (7) projizierten Lichts, um dadurch die Daten einzugeben.

Revendications

1. Dispositif de lecture de données comprenant:

- (a) un moyen de lecture de données (3-5) pour lire des données;
- (b) un interrupteur de fonctionnement (8) pour mettre en fonction le moyen de lecture de données (3-5), pour établir ainsi un état de lecture de données; et
- (c) un moyen de commande (1) conçu pour mettre hors fonction le moyen de lecture de données (3-5), pour établir ainsi un état de non-lecture, lorsque aucune donnée n'est appliquée au moyen de lecture de données (3-5) pendant une durée prédéterminée, bien que l'interrupteur de fonctionnement (8) soit actionné,

caractérisé en ce que

- (d) le moyen de commande (1) est adapté pour mettre en fonction le moyen de lecture de données (3-5), en le faisant passer dans l'état de lecture de données, sous l'effet de l'actionnement de l'interrupteur de fonctionnement (8), pour maintenir l'état de lecture de données pendant qu'une action de lecture de données réelle est en cours d'accomplissement, même si l'interrupteur de fonctionnement (8) n'est plus actionné, et pour mettre hors fonction le moyen de lecture de données (3-5), en le faisant passer de l'état de lecture de données à l'état de non-lecture, sous l'effet de la détermination de l'achèvement de l'opération de lecture de données, conformément à des données qui sont lues; et en ce que

- (e) un premier temporisateur est incorporé pour mesurer une durée pendant laquelle l'état de lecture de données est maintenu, même si l'interrupteur de fonctionnement (8) n'est plus actionné, et un second temporisateur est incorporé pour mesurer une durée pendant laquelle aucune donnée n'est appliquée au moyen de lecture de données (3-5) pendant que l'interrupteur de fonctionnement (8) est actionné, le moyen de commande (1) étant adapté pour mettre hors fonction le moyen de lecture de

- données (3-5) après que l'écoulement d'une première durée prédéterminée a été mesuré par le premier temporisateur, ou après que l'écoulement d'une durée plus longue que la durée prédéterminée a été mesuré par le second temporisateur.
2. Dispositif selon la revendication 1, caractérisé en ce que les données qui sont lues par le moyen de lecture de données (3-5) sont stockées dans un moyen de stockage.
 3. Dispositif selon la revendication 2, caractérisé par un moyen de transfert (7) pour transférer les données enregistrées dans le moyen de stockage vers un dispositif de traitement de données avec lequel le dispositif de lecture communique et qui est commandé sur la base de ces données.
 4. Dispositif selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3 caractérisé en ce que l'interrupteur de fonctionnement (8) est actionné en appuyant sur un élément d'interrupteur, et il n'est plus actionné lorsque cet élément d'interrupteur est relâché.
 5. Dispositif selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4, caractérisé en ce que les données sont un code à barres (30, 30').
 6. Dispositif selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 5, caractérisé en ce que le moyen de lecture de données (3-5) projette de la lumière sur les données, et il lit un contenu des données d'après la lumière réfléchie par les données.
 7. Dispositif selon la revendication 6, caractérisé en ce que le moyen de lecture de données (3-5) continue la projection de la lumière dans l'état de lecture de données, et il arrête la projection de la lumière pour mettre fin à l'état de lecture de données.
 8. Dispositif selon la revendication 1, dans lequel les données sont stockées dans le moyen de stockage par un code BCD (décimal codé en binaire).
 9. Dispositif selon l'une quelconque des revendications 3 à 8, caractérisé en ce que le moyen de transfert comprend un élément émetteur de lumière (7) et il est adapté pour transférer les données vers le dispositif de traitement de données par la lumière projetée par l'élément émetteur de lumière (7).
 10. Dispositif selon la revendication 9, caractérisé en ce que une position de projection de lumière du moyen de lecture de données (3-5) et une projection de lumière de l'élément émetteur de lumière (7) sont fixées à des positions différentes.
 11. Système comprenant un dispositif de lecture de données selon l'une quelconque des revendications 3 à 8 et comprenant le dispositif de traitement de données précité, dans lequel le dispositif de traitement de données comprend un moyen d'entrée (21, 23) pour introduire les données transférées par le moyen de transfert (7) du dispositif de lecture de données, et un moyen de traitement de données (22) commandé sur la base des données introduites au moyen d'entrée (21, 23).
 12. Système selon la revendication 11, dans lequel le moyen de transfert comprend un élément émetteur de lumière (7) et il est adapté pour transférer les données par de la lumière projetée par l'élément émetteur de lumière (7), et le moyen d'entrée (21, 23) comprend un élément récepteur de lumière (23) pour recevoir la lumière qui est projetée par l'élément émetteur de lumière (7), pour introduire ainsi les données.

FIG. 1

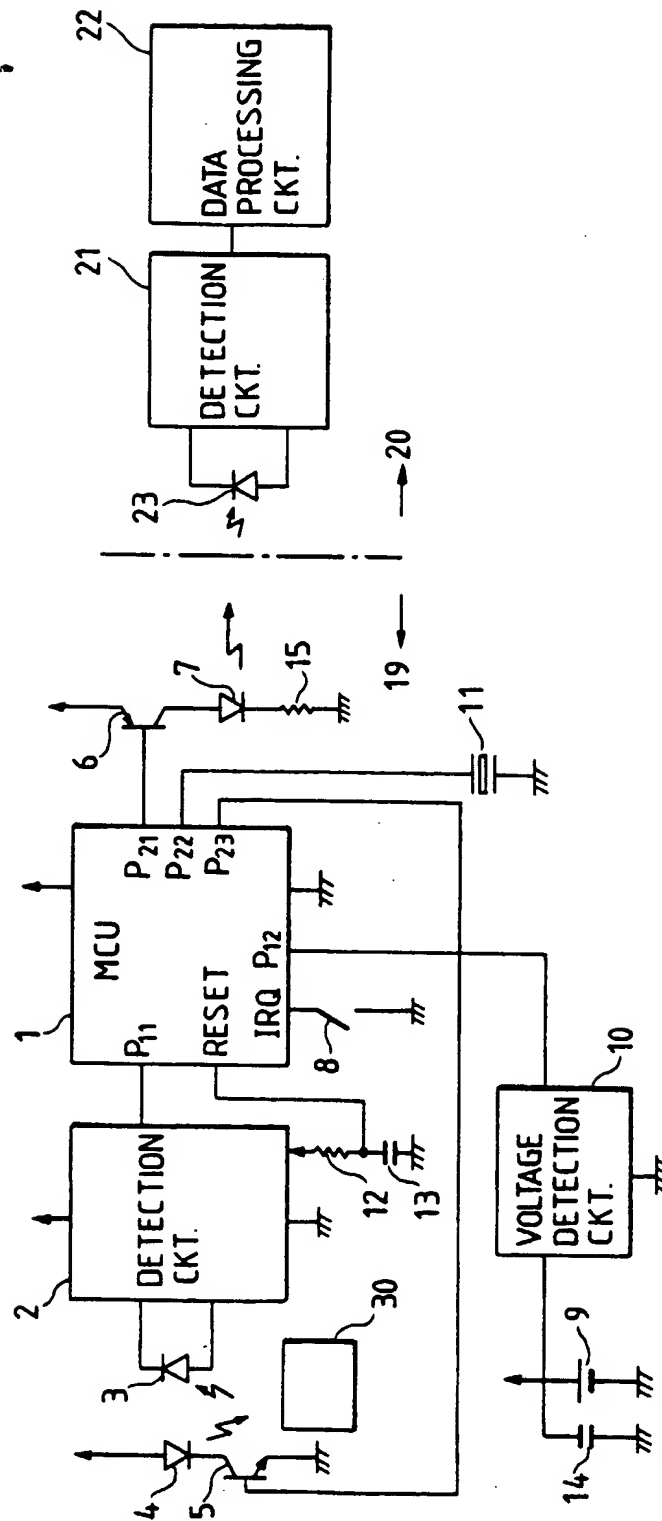


FIG. 2

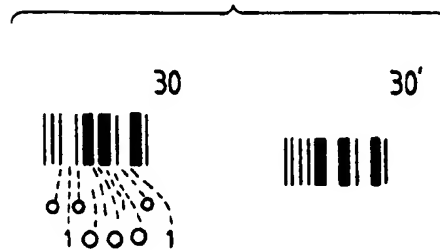


FIG. 3

